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Copy ____ of ____

18 OCT 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Science and Technology)

SUBJECT : Surfacing of the LRI

REFERENCE : A.

B.
[redacted]

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1. At a meeting with Dr. McMillan on 14 October 1963 to discuss the OXCART Contingency Plan, he again raised the much discussed Hotz incident and proposed that active consideration be given now to the controlled surfacing of the AF-12 (LRI).

2. Dr. McMillan expressed the view that with the increasing speculation concerning Kelly Johnson's activities and the possibility of an incident resulting from the increased tempo of operations [redacted] it would be unrealistic to assume we can continue indefinitely to avoid exposure of the program. In his opinion a carefully prepared and controlled surfacing, at a time of our own selection, would be much less damaging than if we were forced into precipitate action by a mishap or news media exposé. (This, incidentally, is identical to the position we took six months ago when we proposed surfacing the LRI to cover the OXCART program. It was vetoed at that time by the Secretary of Defense. See refs.)

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3. Dr. McMillan agreed that any surfacing in the immediate future should involve only the AF-12 and that decisions involving the R-12 could be deferred, probably until 1965. The R-12's will be entering the picture in January of that year and in August or September of 1965 they will be available in considerable numbers.

NRO review(s) completed.

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4. The question of the timing of a surfacing of the LRI was discussed and it was the majority view that it should be done at an early date if it is to serve the intended purpose. Concerning the surfacing of a titanium aircraft, Dr. McMillan stated that Secretary McNamara did not regard this as a problem.

5. In conclusion, Dr. McMillan advised those present that he intended to write a memorandum to the DCI expressing his views on the surfacing problem. It is the opinion of this Office that if this memorandum does, in fact, follow the line expounded by Dr. McMillan in this meeting, DD/S&T should support the proposal to surface the LRI, subject to careful preparation and selection of time.

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JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Acting Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

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SAL/OSA: [redacted] (17 October 1963)

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